

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Press reports tonight give
~~Quite frankly, the cables from the Low Countries give~~

us a grim picture. Even when ^{*we*} ~~you~~ discount ^{*many*} ~~the~~ claims of the Nazis,
it does look as though Hitler's machine were driving relentlessly on.
Just the names of the places where the fighting is ^{*in progress*} ~~going on~~ point to
the discouraging fact that the German hordes are ^{*surging*} ~~pushing~~ ahead.

One statement given out in Berlin ^{*today*} had it that an
advancing German column of armored cars had clashed with the enemy
at a point only thirty miles from Louvain. You may remember that
Louvain was the scene of some of the deadliest fighting in Nineteen
Fourteen. If that's true, it would put one enemy vanguard perilously
close to Brussels. ^{*Though this*} ~~Now that statement, though it~~ comes from German
military sources, ^{*it is not an official bulletin from*} ~~was not put out officially by~~ the high command.

^{*Hitler's*}
The principal claim of ~~the~~ high command is that they have taken Liege,

^{*and*} that the Swastika flag flutters over the ^{*great*} citadel. ~~However,~~ The Germans

admit ~~that~~ the forts on the outskirts are still resisting.

The Germans say further that their motorized forces have established contact with the ^{Nazi} ^{that} troops landed by air at Rotterdam.

If that is true, they have already succeeded in cutting Holland in

~~And that stops~~
half, ~~and are preventing~~ the Dutch defenders from combining with the Belgians.

The Germans also claim to have ^{made a second crossing of} ~~crossed~~ the Albert Canal, ~~an~~

~~important line of defense.~~ The Nazi high command makes the further

claim that they ^{have} ~~have~~ destroyed three hundred and twenty British and

French airplanes, some of them in air battles, some by anti-aircraft

fire, but most of them on the ground. ~~if~~ They themselves, the Germans

^{have} say, ~~lost~~ only thirty-one. ^{But, that's} ~~Of course that's considerably~~ different

from the Allied story, which we shall come to in a moment.

To continue with the ~~claim of the~~ German high command,

^{they say} they have badly damaged a British cruiser, sunk another cruiser,

also a transport ship, and burned seven merchant vessels off the

Dutch coast. ^{All of which seems to refer} ~~That's evidently a reference~~ to the fighting off

Antwerp. ^{For it} ~~It~~ was announced in Britain that the British navy was

cooperating with land forces to prevent Antwerp from falling into

the Nazi claws. But, the British have not landed any troops in Holland.

From what the German high command says, it becomes evident that their tactics in the Low Countries are ~~pretty~~ much the same as ~~those~~ they ^{were} ~~made successful~~ in Poland. First, ~~of all,~~ a ferocious bombardment from the air, then a heavily armed and extremely rapid motor column tearing ahead, speeding round ^{all} ~~any~~ strongly fortified places, ~~that it meets,~~ and leaving them to be reduced later at leisure by the main body of the army. And, they announce crowingly that so far the ⁱⁿ advance through Holland is ahead of schedule.

And from ^{the claims of the Germans you might say,} ~~Now for the other side of the story. The Dutch high~~ ^{is there an other side. Well, the Dutch High} command claims to have cleaned half Rotterdam of Germans, that is

all of the city north of the river. Nevertheless, the invaders still ^{hold the} ~~have the~~ southern part of the ^{great} city. Earlier in the day, the Dutch claimed to have recaptured the ^{airport.} ~~airport.~~ But, later on, it became evident that ^{the} ~~claim~~ was ^{perhaps} ~~premature~~ since the British announced ^{just} that they had bombed the same airport.

One undeniable and significant fact is that Queen

Wilhelmina fled to England late today. The Crown Princess Juliana,

with her German husband and their two daughters, ^{had} arrived in London earlier ^{today} ~~in the day~~. One of them, the little nine months old baby, was carried in a gas-proof box by her father, Prince Bernhard.

At that time it was announced that the Queen herself was sticking to the job. ~~Her escape to England would seem to speak for itself.~~ ^{Tonight it is} ~~In fact, it was~~ admitted that the unfortunate Queen ^{Wilhelmina's} armies are being smashed to pieces by the ^{Tenton horde.} ~~German swarms~~.

The wording of dispatches from the British Expeditionary Force in Belgium, shows that the sledgehammer blows of the ^{Nazis} ~~Germans~~ have pushed the Belgian front-line back. The Belgian high command, however, puts out soothing words. They admit that the Nazi attacks ^{have been} ~~were~~ terrific, but that Belgian troops fighting close with the French and British, are maintaining their positions. The German columns, they say, were thrusting savagely to stop the Allies from getting in close contact with the Belgians and Dutch, but so far they haven't succeeded.

The Dutch high command ~~admits that~~ admits that the Nazis have captured Langstraat, ^{which} ~~that~~ is the name given to a string of villages that line the banks of the southern branch of the River ^{Meuse.} ~~Maas~~. If true, that gives the invaders practically control of the

mouths of the ^{Meuse}~~Maas~~ and brings them perilously near to the mouths
(^{Scheldt})
of the River Scheldt.

The French Minister of Information ^{today} announced that the
Allies have established a strong defense line in Belgium ^{where} ~~which~~ they
expect to hold the Germans up shortly. In fact, he said the German
advance already had been stopped in many places. At the same time,
he admitted that the Belgians are continuing an orderly retreat
toward that line. The French also say that their motorized material
appeared ^S to be better than that of the ^{motorized} German columns.

The French Minister denied ^S that Liege ^S had fallen to the
Germans, ^{He} also contradicted ^S the German claims to have captured the
French towns of Longwy and Montmedy. However, he admitted ^S that the
French had been obliged to make what he called ^S "a slight withdrawal
at one point."

To sum up then, there seems no denying that the Nazis
have broken the first Belgian defense line, which until this week
was reported to be a strong line, much stronger than ^{what} ~~the protective~~
~~cordon that~~ the Belgians had ⁱⁿ ~~prepared~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ NineteenFourteen. However,
now we hear that the second line is much stronger, ^{still}.

Later ^{to} ~~in the~~ day, the Belgian high command announced that

they had counter-attacked and recaptured a village from the Germans.

And that
^(are at this moment)
~~Somewhat~~ [^] between fifteen hundred and two thousand tanks ~~were~~ engaged
in that Belgian battle of those unearthly monsters.

Here's a more hopeful communique coming from Royal Air Force

headquarters in France. British aces today were giving a tough and

successful battle to superior German forces in the air. The British

announce that they have shot down at least ^{one} ~~a~~ hundred and fifty

^{planes.}
Nazi ~~ships.~~ ^{also} The Air Ministry in London ⁵ announced that forty more

^{were}
enemy planes ~~had been~~ shot down with small loss to the British.

H Judging by today's fighting, the British have ^{today done} ~~not only held their~~
~~own against the Germans, but have done better in dogfights,~~ ^{even particularly well}
^{in the air.}

H The French announce a tough battle going on in the ^{Ardennes} ~~Ardennes~~ forest,
where Luxemburg, France and Belgium meet. ^{There} ~~And~~ the Germans are

compelling the French and Belgians to retreat to a line prepared

by the French general staff. *H* The Germans are attacking everywhere

along the Maginot Line.

All in all, it is quite obviously, as Winston Churchill ^{puts} ~~said,~~

^{it}
[^] the fiercest battle in history, so far.

B.E.F.

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Here's a report from an American correspondent with the British Expeditionary Force in Belgium. It just came in five minutes ago. The advance guard of the motorized forces of the British has gone into action against the Germans near the Albert Canal. This is the beginning of ~~what the generals believe will be~~ the first ~~definite~~ clash on land between the British and German armies and what the military experts believe will turn out to be ~~the~~ a fierce and crucial engagement. It will definitely be a test of the British mechanized forces - likewise the hitherto victorious Germans.

REFUGEES

In the eastern and southern parts of Belgium, the highways ~~were cluttered~~ *are now jammed* with pathetic streams of refugees. Many of them pulled ~~hand~~ *ing* carts containing what they ~~were able to~~ *could hurriedly* salvage of their earthly belongings. Little children rode on their parents' shoulders as the grown-ups pulled the carts. Their plodding had to be interrupted every now and then to make way for swift marching columns of British and French troops on their way to reinforce the wavering Belgian front line.

57 The Allies claim to have intercepted an order from Hitler to his air pilots to harass the civilian refugees as much as possible. *That's just a report.* ~~That's what the Allies claim.~~

Trains crowded with Belgian women and children started pouring into the railway stations in Paris this evening.

GOVERNMENT

And here's a late bulletin from London. It's an announcement by General Winkleman, Commander-in-Chief of the Dutch forces. The seat of the government of the Netherlands has been transferred to London.

WEAPON

There's one curiosity that the French and British high command share with the whole civilized world. Everybody alive would like to ^{just} know what is that ^{is} so-called new weapon that the Germans are ^{now} using, [^] the weapon about which Hitler ~~People are remembering now that Hitler at the outset of the war~~ ^{so} ^{last year} crowed triumphantly ~~that he had something new up his sleeve which~~ would make the winning of the war a certainty. The quick and unexpected capture of a strong Belgian fort at Liege, ^{is reported} ~~it is supposed~~ ^{as} ^{have} to have been the first use ~~that~~ the Nazis made of it. So of course speculation is going on ~~at a terrific rate~~ all over the world. ~~It is defined in German by a word which, translated literally,~~ ~~signifies "a means of attack."~~

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The Germans put out a broadcast today from Berlin on the subject, ^{which} ~~it~~ ^{here} was overheard in New York. That broadcast was calculated to increase the mystification of the world rather than convey any information. They are trying to beguile us into the belief that they ^(may) have discovered death rays like those possessed by the Martians in H.G. Wells's "The War of the World." ~~That~~ ^{even} broadcast [^] threw out the hint that the Nazi parachute soldiers were

equipped each with an apparatus which he carries on his back. *That*
With this gadget, parachutists were able to destroy all life,
animal and vegetable, around. ~~As~~ ^{As} an alternative, the Germans
are suggesting that they have discovered a new kind of super-radium,
which ~~sends~~ sends out rays of such power that you can't get
anywhere near them except in special protective armor. And of course
the Nazis are also
~~the Germans are now loudly~~ boasting that the much vaunted Maginot Line
will be useless, that they will walk through it with ease.

In Washington people were conjecturing too. One
flying officer, a high ~~ranking~~ ^{ranked} ~~ranker~~, ventured the guess that the
capture of that important fort near Liege, had been done by crash
bombing, that a plane had put out of business the power control
of the fort ~~which put~~ ^{and thus thrown out of commission} all the guns, controls, sighting mechanisms
and doors ~~out of commission~~. In that way, the fort fell an easy
prey to a swarm of parachutists. ~~That's one guess~~

~~in Washington.~~

PARACHUTISTS FOLLOW WEAPON

And there was hot argument about those parachutists today. The Dutch and French authorities declare that ^{not only did} many of them had come to earth wearing Dutch uniforms, ^{but that some were dressed} ~~some of them even as~~ ^{have all} civilians and nuns. The governments ^{populace} warned the ~~civilians~~ ^{to be} on the lookout for parachutists. The French government put out an announcement that any ~~parachutist~~ parachute soldier not dressed in the uniform of his own army, would be shot out of hand. The Germans thereupon countered with the warning that for every Nazi treated in that fashion, ten Allied prisoners of war would be shot summarily.

ITALY

In
~~Portentous news from~~ Italy. Public demonstrations against
are the British ~~became~~ *ing* more and more violent. *All this* ~~and that~~ on top of
Mussolini's order mobilizing two million Italian soldiers. The
newspaper, which is the organ of the Fascist Party at Bologna,
published a story today that the Duce ~~was~~ *is* about to plunge the country
into the war. *TP* The British Ambassador went to the Foreign Office
to protest against hostile demonstrations. The Fascist government
countered by advising all British consuls to urge their nationals
to leave the country.

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There were even demonstrations against the Vatican because
of its pro-Ally attitude. *TP* Pope Pius telegraphed his sympathy to the
King of the Belgians, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, and the
GrandDuchess of Luxemburg, *and* his messages were published in the
ROMAN OBSERVER, the official organ of the Vatican. Copies of that
edition of the newspaper were publicly burned and a man walking along
the street with the OBSERVER in his hands, was chucked headlong into
a fountain.

CHURCHILL

One brief event of today was an unexpected brief meeting of the British Parliament. ~~Its~~ Its sole purpose was to give the new Churchill Government a rousing hand. The proceedings began with a motion offered by the new Prime Minister in person.

"It is moved that this House welcomes the formation of a Government representing the united, inflexible resolution of the nation to prosecute the war with Germany to a victorious conclusion." Those were the words of the motion. And, those were the first words uttered in Parliament by Winston Churchill in his new capacity of Prime Minister.

57
—
Churchill told
Then he went on to ~~tell~~ the Commons that the Allies are in the preliminary phase of one of the greatest battles of all history, and, as proof that the British are united, he pointed to the formation of his new five-man-war-cabinet in which every political party is represented.

"We also have to be prepared in the Mediterranean," said Churchill. And he added, "We have before us many long months of struggle and suffering." Speaking for himself he said, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

There were speeches of approval from every party represented in the House of Commons except one. An independent labor member found that everybody was out of ~~xx~~ step but himself, and he thereupon expressed regret that Labor had joined the Government. Just to be different. It was noticeable that the loudest cheers of the day were for Neville Chamberlain, former Prime Minister, now Lord President of the Council. Chamberlain got an ovation when he appeared in the House and took his seat beside Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

The motion of the Prime Minister was carried without an opposing voice, not even an opposing vote from the Laborite who had expressed himself as opposed in spirit. The vote in the Lords also was unanimous.

DEFENSE

58/2
More money for Uncle Sam's fighting forces! And that's just one of the many repercussions in this country from the latest German invasions. The President is going to ask Congress for a much larger defense fund. For one thing, the President wants the Army to be completely mechanized, taking advantage of the lessons learned from the German conquest of Poland and the invasions of Norway and the Low Countries.

There was a report that he may ask for as much as half a billion dollars extra, in addition to the present appropriations which mount up to two billions. This to include funds for army, navy and air force.

Senators of both parties are in favor of this.

59
For instance, Lodge of Massachusetts wants a Congressional committee ~~committee~~ of five Senators and five members of the House to draft a new defense policy for the United States, and recommend specifically what appropriations will be needed. The Massachusetts Senator points out that although Uncle Sam's army nominally is four hundred and twenty-three thousand strong, actually we could only put seventy-five thousand in the field, properly equipped.

59 1/4
Carry on Hugh